

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

## and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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## SOME HAPPY CONVERSIONS

"I want to talk to you and your official board!" said a very determined man to me last Wednesday night after the prayer meeting. "This church has come between me and my wife and I want to tell you what I think about it." So I called a group of the men together and they came up to my study. He brought his wife who had recently joined the church and had been baptized just the Sunday night before, February 28th. When the group was assembled together, about ten or twelve of us, he stated his case with a good deal of indignation. No one had asked him to join the church. Besides, he didn't have confidence in this church. He complained because he said his wife had been wanting to be baptized now for several months. We talked kindly about the matter and learned that he had been, with his wife, a member of another church but that he supposed he had never been converted. We told him that we did not make a custom of inviting members of other local churches to join our church. And we soon learned that one of the young women in the office had talked to him about his soul. At that time he had told her he was saved to avoid further conversation on the subject. After a good deal of a scene, he demanded that his wife be released from church membership. I told him that was up to her, if she wished to be dismissed she would be, but at her own request. Tearfully, the wife agreed that she did not want to go against her husband and if he demanded it, she would withdraw from the church for the time being and pray that he would be saved and enter with her a little later. A little touched, he agreed for her to remain in the church for four weeks. We had a circle of prayer before we left, earnestly praying God to save him. I told the good man frankly that he was years late in objecting to his wife's religion; that he ought to have led the way for Christ long ago. A number of the men shook hands with him, asking his forgiveness for not talking with him about his soul, before they went home. It was a queer occasion, a mixture of comedy and tragedy.

The next day a friend phoned that our man was having a terrible struggle. A number joined in prayer for him. Late Thursday evening, about bed time, the man and his wife came to our home. He had read half of my booklet, "A Church God Blesses And Why" during his noon hours and said, "Your church is exactly what I think a church ought to be. Now I have come to see what you can do to help me get ready to join it. I didn't sleep last night, I had no peace of mind today."

I suggested that there was only one thing to do and that was to turn to Christ for salvation, and he said again, "Well, that is what I came for, to see what you could do to help me get ready." So we read the Scriptures together, the four of us, the dear man, his wife, Mrs. Rice and I. After I prayed, our unsaved friend prayed with tears and deep earnestness, begging God to forgive him and give him the peace that he needed. Afterward, he trusted Christ and claimed Him openly. He said he was somewhat ashamed of the scene he had made and asked forgiveness. Yet he went away feeling that he was such a weak, new Christian, he doubted whether he had better join the church yet. But

Sunday morning he came to the service early with his good wife. Before the service he asked me, "When is it time for me to join the church and what shall I do?" I told him he could come forward with others at the close of the morning service. When the invitation was given, he immediately came forward, presenting himself for membership as a candidate for baptism. Sunday night he was baptized. All the cloud was gone from his face and he was happy in the Lord and my, how happy his wife was! And the little baby girl, two and one-half years old, looked up into my face and said very seriously, "Daddy got clothes wet" Yes, and he got his heart changed, praise the Lord!

### Catholic Boy Saved

A few minutes ago a young man, eighteen years old, came to the office to make a delivery. He was to receive a check and so while it was being prepared I talked to him about the Lord. Finally reluctantly he told he his people were Catholics. He knew nothing about the Scripture, did not even know John 3:16, and seemed never to have heard it. However, he knew about the death of Christ on the cross and calling to his mind the cru-

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## "Home, Sweet Home"

The Dearest Place On Earth, The Nearest Place To Heaven Is A Happy Christian Home

BY JOHN R. RICE

Home can be almost a hell on earth. Last week in Dallas a man came to the home of his estranged wife with a shotgun. She pleaded in vain for her life then turned and ran. The full charge of shot hit her in the back and she fell, dead. Then the man put the muzzle of the gun to his mouth and blew away the whole side of his face and fell mortally wounded, was carried to the hospital and died without regaining consciousness. That proves, I think, that home can be almost a hell on earth.

In Dallas County last year there were three-fourths as many divorces as there were marriage licenses. In three out of every four homes in Dallas, marriage failed, dissension, jealousy, suspicion or even hate turned the marital cup into gall and the air castles of love into ashes. Drinking, unfaithfulness, brutality and desertion played their part in these home tragedies. And only God knows how many homes were miserable besides those dissolved in divorce. Some couples applied for divorces and did not get them, other homes are held together for the sake of children and some wives endure their husbands for financial support and some husbands keep their wives to avoid scandal. Certain it is that homes are not always happy homes. Homes can be failures, places where families endure but do not enjoy each other. Sometimes family ties are little more than a convenience. Often homes are little hells on earth.

But home was not so intended. The good God who instituted marriage and the family, provided that homes should be a blessing and joy; a refuge of peace and happiness, a haven from trouble and

strife and sorrow. God intended that home should be "the dearest place on earth, the nearest place to Heaven."

### The First Home, In The Garden Of Eden

Little as we think about it, the institution of the home, marriage and family was meant for perfect people in a paradise of beauty! Home was intended to be the last step to perfect happiness in a lovely and sinless world. God made Adam, the first man, perfect and holy, in His own image. And then, even in the Garden of Eden God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). So God made a woman and brought her to the man and Adam loved her and she was his wife. Thus God Himself in the Garden of Eden founded the first home. It was the last step needed for perfect happiness on earth in the paradise of God.

After that time the curse of sin entered in and Adam and his wife became sinners and all their descendants are cursed with the taint of sin. Every man and every woman in the world is a poor fallen creature, and nature itself bears the marks of the curse that came with sin. The world has become a place of war and crime and hate and rebellion against God and unnamable wickedness and violence. Yet when the angels with a flaming sword drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden they

brought part of the paradise with them. The loving mercy of God provided that the outcasts from Eden should take with them the Edenic blessing of marriage and love and home! Every home, then, is a part of the Garden of Eden. Every home is meant to be a heaven on earth. Every home should be a refuge from a sin-cursed world all about us and a likeness of our Heavenly home which God has prepared for them that love Him.

### The Christian Home Depends On A Christian Marriage

Happiness in the home depends on having God there, and having the home-honor Christ. Only where Christ is Lord can happiness have full place. If we expect to have a little bit of Heaven in our home, then we must have Christ there and His will must be done. Sin brings trouble and heartache. It always has, it always will. Sin broke up the Garden of Eden. Sin has brought death into the world. Every sickness, every failure, all the trouble and misunderstanding and heartbreak of the world has been brought in by sin. So the only way to have a really happy, blessed home is to have a Christian home, a home where the principals to the marriage are saved people putting Christ first.

It is dangerous and foolish for a Christian to marry one who is not saved.

Can Christ and Satan both be Lord in the same house? Can you mix Hell in with Heaven, and still make the home happy? Can one expect when a Christian marries a child of Satan that their union, the most intimate of all human relationships, will be a happy one? No, no! The marriage of a Chris-

1. Nudism (Leg Shows, Indecent Exposures, Bathroom Scenes).
2. Features Sex Stories, Seduction, Prostitution and Love Triangles, Divorces.
3. Makes Heroes of Criminals, Gunmen, Gangsters.
4. Derides Ministers and Churches, Showing Preachers, Deacons, Church Members as Hypocrites.
5. Exalts Drinking, Revelling, and Accompanying Vices.
6. The Moving Picture Industry Sets Up as Examples for the Young People of America a Bunch of Debauched, Divorced, Sex-Mad, Publicity-Seeking, Money-Crazy "Stars" Who Are Leading the Younger Generation into Crime, Drink, Lust and Ruin.

The above points will be proven in the Sunday night sermon by Pastor John R. Rice at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle next Sunday night, March 13th. It is a shameful fact that multitudes of church members attend the picture shows. Some preachers are guilty. What would such Christians answer if they were in moving picture theaters when Jesus comes? Are there any Scriptures that deal with this question? What action should parents take? Should a Christian ever attend a moving picture theater?

This problem must be dealt with boldly, Scripturally, prayerfully, and with love for God and love for saints and sinners. This message will be given Sunday night.

Service starts at 7:45. A good choir, fine music, sweet fellowship. Bring unsaved friends. We promise you the plainest preaching you ever heard! Please pray for God's blessing.

tian to an unsaved person is a sin against God and the certain result is misery and unhappiness.

I have often seen, as you have, the happy case where God has answered the tearful prayers of a wife for her unsaved husband, or of a husband for his unsaved wife. Sometimes after many years, prayer has been answered, and the loved one, married years ago in defiance of the plain command of God, (a sinful marriage it was) is saved. God's mercy is great. God is willing to forgive sin. Yet every pastor knows, every evangelist knows, that the most frequent and heartbreaking failure of an answer to prayer, is that of a wife praying for her husband, whom she married in sin contrary to the command of God. Many times such are never saved, or are saved after much suffering and trouble in the home. A Christian, marrying an unbeliever, sins against God and makes sure of trouble.

In II Corinthians 6:14-18, God's Word says:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

"15. And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

"16. And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

"17. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Hear John R. Rice on WRR (1280 kc.) 7:30 a. m Sunday.



## "Home, Sweet Home"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

"18. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons, and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Righteousness with unrighteousness is mismatched, light mated with darkness is sin. Christ does not have concord with Belial. He that believeth should not have part with an infidel (literally an unbeliever). The temple of God (the Christian's body) is not at agreement with idols. Therefore the command of God is, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean" (The word *thing* is not in the original. God does not mean an unclean thing, but an unclean person), "and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

If home is to be "the dearest place on earth, the nearest place to Heaven," it must be a place where there is harmony between husband and wife, harmony about the deepest things, the highest things, the noblest things. In other words, Christ must be rule in both hearts or there can be no Heaven in the home.

And let me say here that human love, however high and lofty it is, cannot guarantee happiness in the home. Here in America we are wont to think that love is the sum of all that is necessary to make a marriage successful and happy. But it is not true. I have known cases, and you have too, where drunkenness, nagging brutality, incompatibility, dissension and disagreement about the holiest things in life came in homes where love was truly present. An unsaved man's love for his wife will not give him a good heart. An unsaved man's love for his wife may not be able to conquer the demon of thirst for drink. An unsaved woman's love for husband will not always make her willing to give up the habits and thoughts and plans of a lifetime. Human love is not sufficient to guarantee happiness in the home.

Do you suppose that in three cases out of four, of the marriages that took place in Dallas County last year, there was no true love? Three-fourths of the marriages are ending with divorce. Three-fourths of the marriages go on the rocks. That does not mean that human love was not truly present. Men and women who could not live together in peace often have told me they still loved each other. It simply means that there must be something beyond carnal, human love, if happiness is to reign in the home.

Human love cannot regenerate the human heart. Human love does not make one Christ-like. Sin abides in the heart that only has human love as a motive. And sin brings trouble anytime, anywhere it appears. Happiness, even in Heaven, would be spoiled if sin were admitted to work its havoc. So home can be happy in proportion as Christ is Lord and as both husband and wife put their dependence on God, love Him and trust Him and put Him first in their lives. Therefore it is folly

for a Christian to marry one who is unsaved. God plainly commands, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

In Rhome, Texas, some years ago, I preached on this subject. The next day a little woman came to me and laughingly said, "I know what you preached about last night, even if I was not here, and I do not believe it!"

"I think you surely must be mistaken. If you know what I preached, you would surely agree with it for it is in the Bible," I said. "Read this Scripture with me."

So I turned to II Corinthians 6:14-18 and she read it over. Her face became grave, and before she read through the passage, tears flooded her eyes. Weeping, she turned to me and said, "I didn't know it was in the Bible! I didn't know it was there! Why didn't some preacher tell me this fifteen years ago?"

I knew what caused her tears and her broken heart. She had married an unsaved man. Her fourteen year old son, following in the footsteps of his wicked father, was now breaking her heart. Just a child he was, yet she could not get him to attend services, could not get him interested in the things of God. He preferred to follow his father. She was reaping what she sowed.

So I feel my responsibility to you young people. I beg you, do not, if you are a Christian, marry an unsaved person. To do so, you sin against God. To do so means certain trouble and heartache. No human quality of character can guarantee a happy home. Human love cannot bring happiness. Only the blessing of God can make the home happy. For your mate then, choose only one who knows the Lord Jesus and is willing to put Him first in heart and life.

Solomon, the man greatly loved of God, and given wisdom as no other human being ever had, sinned in this matter. Nehemiah said, in rebuking Israelites who after the captivity had sinned by marrying into the heathen people, "Did not Solomon, king of Israel, sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin." Marriage with unsaved women caused even Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, to sin. Such ungodly marriages bring the displeasure of God. They forfeit His blessings, many times, upon the home.

If you have committed this sin, then beg God to forgive you. You cannot undo your marriage, and you ought not. The Scripture plainly commanded in such places that, "If any brother hath a wife that believe not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away" (I Cor. 7:12). Divorce is not the remedy for this wrong. Two wrongs do not make a right. Any marriage, recognized by men, is now binding in the sight of God. Your sin is of the past. All you can do now is to beg God to forgive you and to undo, as far as possible, the wrong and harm that has been wrought by your sin. But to you who have not committed this sin yet, I beg you, beware! Any person who marries one of the devil's children, is certain to have trouble with his father-in-law, Satan! No home can be happy until Christ is the Lord of the home, the King in the hearts of both man and woman. Success, and happiness, and peace in any other kind of a home is only relative, only a fraction of what it could be if

Christ had His way in the hearts of both husband and wife. Some wife, perhaps, reads this message who has an unhappy home: your husband is unsaved, or less frequently, some husband will read it whose wife is unsaved. May I say to you kindly, you can never expect real spiritual happiness in your home without Christ in the hearts of those who make the home.

If your loved one is unsaved, then today is the day to do your best. If possible, get that husband today to trust in Christ as Saviour. Make your home united around Jesus Christ. That is the only hope for happiness. Or if you who read this are unsaved, you are the fly in the ointment in your home. If you are unsaved in a home where others are Christians, then you are the serpent in the garden of Eden. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isa. 57:21). Your home cannot be fully happy without Christ. Turn to Christ today and make your home happy with His presence.

### Little Children Needed In A Happy Home

In the Garden of Eden God founded the first home. A happy paradise it was! There, we are told, "God blessed them and God said unto them, 'Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it'" (Gen. 1:28). Even if man had not sinned God planned that the family should have children. And after sin had brought the wreck of the whole world, and God had swept away civilization in the flood, God repeated the same command to Noah in Genesis 9:1: "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth." I know that there are some homes that cannot have children. God does not always give the blessed privilege of motherhood and fatherhood to men and women in marriage. But in Bible times, barrenness was regarded as a calamity. If you hear the pleading prayer of Hannah, the long continued supplication of Sarah, the way Isaac interceded for his wife, Rebecca, the jealous competition between Leah and Rachel the joy of the aged Zacharias and Elisabeth when the angel promised the birth of John the Baptist, you know that according to Bible standards, children are essential to the fullest happiness in the home. "As arrows are in the hand of the mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them" (Psa. 127:4, 5).

Let modern women be more concerned, if they must, about their schoolgirl complexion, and their flapper form. The painting of the nails rouge on the face, lipstick and permanent waves — these may be the highest themes of thought and ambition of many modern women. But let us be sure that these never did satisfy a heart nor make the home happy. It is said that while children are little they trample upon your toes, and when they are grown, they trample upon your heart. I suppose that is true for most people. Well, then, let us have them trampling on our toes and if it must be, let us have them trampling upon our hearts, but God deliver us from an old age without children. Women had better learn to fear, as Bible women did, barren lives, fruitless wombs and breasts that never gave suck. God keep me that, after all the sorrows and toil and grey hair the children may bring, I may yet rejoice to hold my grandchildren in my arms and see my children grown and happy and prosperous in the blessing of God, serving their fellowman and giving their testimony for Christ! Children cost! Certainly they cost, from the heaviness of the mother and the pangs of childbirth, on down to the burdens of their adulthood. But children, rightly raised, reared in the fear of God, saved by His grace, trained and admonished in His Word — such children are worth all they cost and more!

I know homes that are never happy. Wives spend money and time depending upon form and skin and clothes and hair dressing and jewels to hold the love of husbands. What they need is one little mutual body they can love and handle and train, one little mind that they can enlighten. Homes would not be so easily broken if

## Happy Conversions

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

clifix and paintings of the Saviour with the wounds in His hands, His feet and His side, I quoted Scriptures about the death of Christ for our sins. Brother Harold T. Pultz of Mineral Wells was in the office and after a time, when the young man admitted himself a sinner and declared that he would like to be a Christian, would like to have his sins forgiven and his heart changed, we three stood together and had a prayer that God would save his soul. He was courteous, eager, child-like as he listened to the story, and then definitely claimed Christ as his Saviour. I gave him my tract, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and then Dr. Walter Lewis Wilson's book,

they had a real tie of flesh and blood. A man and wife whose blood has mingled in the veins of their offspring will not so quickly separate. Those who have watched beside the same little sickbed, have prayed together and had their prayers answered, as they listened so carefully to the doctor's verdict, surely they have something that will hold them together as they override many storms of a nagging tongue, neglect or abuse. I advise every husband and wife who can do so to have children, particularly if they are Christians and fit to rear children.

May I say that part of the grief and sin and violence and wickedness that is coming upon this old world at the present time is to be blamed on the so-called Christian homes. The homes of the poor, the unlettered, the shiftless, continue to multiply. In the homes of college graduates, well-bred, well-trained, cultivated people, children are scarce. If the men and women best fitted to be fathers and mothers have large families of children reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, our civilization would have salt enough to keep it from destruction that is threatening it today. Only eternity can tell how preacher's children have blessed the world. Why should the man who develops only his muscles have more children than the man who develops his mind and character? Some homes can be happy, if in the will of God He sees fit to withhold the blessings of children. But all who can have children, we believe, should do so, and that home reaches its highest and fullest joy, only God intended, when there are father and mother and children together, to please God and give their best to Him.

### Discipline and Authority In The Home

There can be no happiness without authority. The kingdom of Christ can never come on earth until His will is done here as it is in Heaven. Only when rebellion came in, was man cast outside the garden, a fallen soul. No home can be happy without authority.

Here is the basis of all sin: rebellion against authority. The reason for all the crimes against society is this one thing, rebellion against authority. We spoke at the county jail Sunday afternoon. Four hundred sixty-five men and women are there today. Every one of them, however diverse were their crimes, came there because they rebelled against authority. Every man in the penitentiary goes there for that very reason. Every per-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

"The Romance of a Doctor's Visits" and promised to mail him a Testament. Praise the Lord! This morning at the breakfast table in our family worship I had asked God to give me a soul for today.

### Eight Forward Sunday Morning: Seven Baptized Sunday Night

Last Sunday the presence of God was very manifest in the services here in Dallas. When the invitation was given there were eight, I believe, who came forward. One was a young man who had been backslidden in heart and came confessing his sins and making a new surrender to God. There was one addition by letter and a number for baptism. Several came claiming Christ as Saviour. Two were converted in the Sunday School. It was a blessed time.

We baptize nearly every Sunday night and last Sunday night there were seven, two were men, heads of families. We do not have half the blessings we ought to have and we do far too little for the Lord but we would do wrong not to praise Him for these blessings He gives us here.

### A Family of Five Mail Decision Slip Claiming Christ

Last week from Walker, Minnesota, there came the message we have received so often and always with such joy. Page seventeen of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" was clipped out and the statement, "Realizing that I am a sinner, and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour and gladly mail this to let you know" was signed by one person. There was only room for one name there, so pinned on to the decision slip was another sheet of paper with four additional names signed to it, one a seven year old girl, the others did not give their ages.

What holy scene do you suppose transpired in the home when those five people solemnly came to the decision to claim Christ as Saviour and wrote their names down? How many tears fell? Who led the way for the rest of the family? Who gave them the booklet and first got them concerned about their souls? We do not know. Some of these blessed scenes are recorded in Heaven and one day we will know all about them. Just now we believe this simple and earnest profession of these who say that they here and now take Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour and so we rejoice. And this makes us even more anxious to start a tract society here in Dallas to give away millions of tracts wherever sinners need God and wherever saints need edification. Will the reader help us pray? Just as fast as the Lord provides the means, we send this booklet out. If you want a copy, write us. If you want any larger quantity, we will send them for one cent each, postpaid. The booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" has twenty pages and God has used it in the winning of hundreds of souls.

"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few:

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:37, 38).

### THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

son in Hell, goes there primarily because he rebels against the authority of God and refuses to obey His commands, refuses to trust God's Son refuses to surrender to his will. We must remember that "The powers that be are ordained of God." God demands obedience to law, obedience to authority. In the home that must be true if you are to have the blessing of God and peace, if home is to be a little bit of Heaven upon earth. Rebellion means crime and sin, and these always bring unhappiness. For this reason, God has provided that the wife should be subject to her husband. He said to Eve, just outside the garden of Eden, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." And so in the New Testament even, women are commanded to be in subjection, and under obedience to their own husbands (Eph. 5:22, 23; I Pet. 3:1, 6; Titus 2:5).

How necessary, then, that the children God gives a home should be under authority! God commanded Abraham, and confided His plans to Abraham because, He said, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen. 18:19). Eli in the days of the baby Samuel, was a devout and Godly man. Yet upon him and his whole posterity there came the curse of God, "because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (I Sam. 3:13). God said that Eli, in not controlling his children, "honourest thy sons above me" (I Sam. 2:29).

Th's matter of discipline in the home is one of the cardinal doctrines in the Bible. So strict was God's plan about it that father and mother were commanded to see their son stoned if he were rebellious and would not hearken unto them. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 says: Rebellion in the home is counted as one of the sins worthy of death, along with murder, rape and kidnapping!

You recall that "honour thy father and thy mother" is one of the Ten Commandments, which compose all the law of God. Fathers and mothers are commanded to "chasten" the son, and if he is still rebellious and will not heed and becomes a drunkard and a glutton, a rebel, he is to be counted an enemy of society and executed.

So important is this matter of the discipline of children that in the New Testament, it is plainly forbidden that a man should be bishop or pastor of a church, if he has children accused of riot or unruly (I Tim. 3:1-5). Again, of one who is to be a pastor it is required, that he be one "having his children in subjection with all gravity, (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (I Tim. 3:4, 5).

Do you believe in whipping children? The Bible is as clear on that as it could possibly be. Turn with me to Proverbs 13:24.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him beatings."

True parental love must demand discipline. The parent who does not love his child enough to punish him for sin, encourages a career of wickedness that must bring unhappiness and perhaps ruin. Do not spare the rod, you who love your children. Chastisement goes with love, according to the Word of God. Again we have the plain command in Proverbs 19:18:

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

I have known some parents who never cross their children except just enough to make them angry. My father had a way of whipping until we cried and then whipping until we quit crying! Brother, if you expect to be honored in your old age, and your children to rise up and call you blessed, then, "Chasten thy son while there is hope." One day, when he is out from under your thumb, and will not listen to you, it may be too late, but while there is hope, chasten him! To hear some modern educators talk, one would suppose that to leave stripes upon the body of a child were a terrible offense. But the Word of God says, "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly" (Prov. 20:30). Stripes on the back, in time, save many a wound in the heart later for the child that you love.

Many people believe that everything depends upon chance; that no one can know definitely how their children will turn out. Sometimes people say to the preacher, "You may talk now, but you never know how it will be with your own children." Well, at least I know that God has promised this. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). As a pastor of a country church years ago, I preached on the subject of a Christian home. One man, a member of the church, came to me with a good deal of indignation and said, "Pastor, you must go home with me." At his insistence I finally excused myself from others with whom I had agreed to visit, and went to his home. There he said to me, "Pastor, I do not believe what you preached this morning. It simply isn't so!" I answered back, "What is there I preached that isn't so?" He said, "It is simply not true that if you train a boy right he will not leave the right way after he is grown. I know I did raise my boy right!"

After a good deal of inquiry, he finally sadly admitted to me that his boy was in the Texas Peni-

tentiary at Huntsville. I said to him, "Now that you have made an issue of it and have denied the statement of God's Word on this question, answer me this: Did you raise your boy right?" He insisted that he did but I pressed the matter, "Did you ever have family worship in your home?" "No," he said. They had been busy people, working on the farm and never had time for such things like some city people do, he said.

"Did you try to win your boy to Christ when he was small and you had influence over him?" I asked. "No," he said, "I never did believe in this business of begging little children into the church and overpersuading them." I showed him what the Bible taught about it. "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not." I showed him the command in the Bible, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7). Then I asked him, "Did you whip your boy and make him mind when he was a boy at home?" He answered, "See here, preacher, you cannot treat all children alike. My boy was a nervous, high-strung boy and he couldn't be punished like others could. It would just make him worse instead of better." And then I honestly and faithfully told his father that he himself had sinned and that his boy was in the Penitentiary because he had not followed the plain commands of God's Word about chastening his son and training him up in the way he should go.

### Is Whipping Children Cruel?

Does it seem a cruel thing to whip a child? If you think so then listen again to the Word of God:

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die."

"Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:13, 14).

The doctor is not cruel who operates upon a sufferer to save his life. There may be some pain in the operation but the end to be attained is worth it all. The parent is not cruel who insists on long hours of study for the child in getting an education. The burden may be heavy, but the end attained is worth it. So the parent is not cruel who whips his child, severely if need be, frequently if necessary, persistently and reverently and prayerfully but determinedly, until he gets obedience and that meek and quiet spirit of reverence and obedience to authority. Whip your children, readers, when they need it. They will not die, rather in old age they will rise up to call you blessed. "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Doubtless many are in Hell now, because their parents never taught them sin must be punished. They never did learn that "the wages of sin is death." They never did learn that "Be sure your sin will find you out." They never did learn from their parents that "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." They never did learn that "the way of the transgressor is hard." They never did learn that turning to ones own way brings heartache and suffering and trouble and condemnation. Many, I say, are doubtless in Hell because they were not punished for sin as children. Parents, as you love God and believe His Word, as you love your children and long for them to grow into good men and women, with the favor and blessing of God, then demand obedience, demand careful, quiet, immediate answers to questions, demand obedient action when you speak. Yes, teach your child that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and idolatry (I Sam. 15:23). By so teaching him now, you may have tears and heartache. You may be misunderstood. You may often despair and think you are failing, but one day, thank God, you will see the reward and will find that it pays to do what God has said. There is no way to have a happy home without discipline.

Do you know why many a mother is brought to shame by her children? Proverbs 29:15 tells us "The rod and reproof give wisdom:

but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Again Proverbs 29:17 says: "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Oh, the joy of well brought-up young people, quiet, reverent, obedient, respectful! Such children are easy to win to Christ. They are easy to hold a job when they get one. They learn to study, learn to work, learn to avoid sin. God gives you some twenty years to make men and women out of your children. Be careful that you do not sin by avoiding punishment. Chastening is in God's plan of raising children! The home that does not have strict discipline is not a Bible kind of home. It will not have the peace of God long upon it.

### The Boy Who Killed His Mother Was Never Spanked

Last Saturday, March 5, the following appeared in the Dallas Journal:

#### "DAD FORGIVES BOY WHO SLEW HIS MOTHER"

"CHICAGO, ILL., March 5 (UP).—Theodore Daniels, who thought he had been bringing up a musical genius, decided today to forgive his son for killing his mother."

"Danielsen interviewed his 16-year-old son, Theodore, Jr., in jail last night. Teddy told him that he had killed his mother with a bread knife. Father and son wept together and the father listened to the boy's story, his arms around him, his head bowed."

"I'm still your friend," the father said. "Keep your chin up. You're all I have left."

"To police, Daniels said: 'He has a very quick temper. We never spanked him.'

"Teddy played the piano well and his teachers called him an 'embryonic genius.' Mrs. Daniels, who also played the piano well, made him practice daily."

"Teddy killed her Thursday. She was making a cherry pie in the kitchen. He came in. She had learned that he hadn't been to school for two weeks. She reprimanded him and he picked up the bread knife off the table and ran it into her throat. He took \$5 and her jewelry from his mother's purse and fled. Police arrested him yesterday."

"Teddy told police that he killed his mother because she slapped him and scratched his cheek and seemed about to slap him again."

"HE HAS A VERY QUICK TEMPER. WE NEVER SPANKED HIM!" That is the reason he had such a temper! The Dallas Journal then later comments editorially about this case that here is youth left free to express itself, without restraint. Dear friend, happiness does not come to the home that has no authority, no discipline, no restraint, no punishment of sin. If you want the peace of God to abide in your home, then, Husband, Father, take your place as the minister of God, the head of the home and see that righteousness prevails there. It will take prayer, tears, pleading, and sometimes chastising. It will take good example and earnest seeking after the right. But it is worth it, and there is no other way to have a home where God can abide in great blessing.

The Bible is never out of date, and in this matter it is as infallibly correct as it is on the plan of salvation. The home which is "the dearest place on earth, the nearest place to Heaven" is a home where there is peace and order with a reverence and respect for authority which in the last analysis means a respect for God and a surrender to His will.

### Christ Must Be Put First in the Home

Homes that are like Heaven must put Christ first. He was first in the creation. He it was that met Adam and talked with him in the Garden of Eden. God has planned that in Him all things should consist and that in all things He should have the preeminence. God has committed all judgment to the Son, Jesus Himself said, "All power in heaven and in earth is given

unto me" (Matt. 28:18). So then, if you would have a happy and blessed home, put Christ first.

What part does the church have in your home? Is it counted an honor to be a church member? When you move your residence, do you immediately put your membership in a church of God's leading and choice, in the new community where you reside? And do you regularly attend the services whenever the doors are open? Are you in your place in Sunday School, in the morning and evening preaching services on Sunday, in the prayer meeting on Wednesday night? Do you take some active part, to fulfill your ministry, your stewardship of the gospel? If not, how could you expect God to make such a home happy? Children will not follow the precept of a father and mother whose example does not tell the same thing. It is a pitiful thing, that it should ever be necessary to say about parents, like Jesus said about the scribes and Pharisees that "Whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" (Matt. 23:3). Children will have no confidence in the hypocrite. They know whether you mean business for God. When they see you day by day putting business before the church, putting your pleasure before God, putting money-making before soul winning, reading other literature before the Bible, do you suppose they believe in the sincerity of your claims as a Christian? Do you suppose they are impressed by your devotion to God? Do you suppose they see any reason for trusting Christ and loving Him and serving Him? So, about many a parent it could honestly be said that, "What you do talks so loud, I cannot hear what you say!" Put Christ first in your home if you want the peace of God to dwell there. We have it plainly said in the word of God that "I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exo. 20:5). You may expect your children to follow in your footsteps. You cannot expect them to love God and serve Him, to put Him first, unless you do the same.

At our home as a boy (it is one of my happy memories!) we always expected to go to church. My father, my step-mother, the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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## "Home, Sweet Home"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

whole family (too many to ride in one carriage!) went to church. We went when it was cold, we went when it was hot. We went when it rained, we went when it was dry. It was rare indeed that any were so sick they could not go, and if that were true, the rest of us went to church, and just enough stayed at home to take care of the sick. We went to church and Sunday School on time. We went to prayer meeting. I thank God for the happy memories that proved to me the sincerity of my father's faith in God.

Is Christ put first in your home? Do you have thanks at the table? Are little children taught to bow their heads and to be grateful to God for daily bread? Remember the disciples who went down to Emmaus in their sadness and were cheered with the presence of One they did not know. They recognized Him by the blessing of the bread! And your children can recognize Christ in you when they are accustomed to daily prayer, gratitude, to reverence in the home. Does your home have Christian mottoes, Scripture verses on the walls? Are the children accustomed to hearing mother and father pray? Are they taught to lift their little voices in thanks and in petition? Are they accustomed to the Word of God as the fountain of blessing which father and mother have found it to be? I beg you, put Christ in your home if you want happiness there!

Recently I was in the home of a good man who had just died. He was a Christian. He said he was ready to go, and his family believed him. But they said to me, "Oh, Brother Rice, but we never heard him pray! If we could only have heard him pray!" Home can only be a little bit of Heaven upon earth as Christ is recognized as the head of the home.

I am certain that even poverty and the attendant evils and sorrows of it, are usually caused by our sins. The home where Christ is honored with the firstfruits of all the increase, is usually a prosperous and happy home. Every home should expect the blessing of Malachi 3:10, "Bring ye all the

tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Remember that Jesus Himself promised, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom" (Luke 6:38). And where want, and poverty, and stark hunger is, it is likely true that those who have sowed sparingly have reaped sparingly. Where plenty is, even a modest plenty, with the blessing of God, it is often true that 'he that sowed bountifully, has reaped also bountifully' (II Cor. 9:6). Every home can claim the promise of Jesus that "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Daily food can come like manna from Heaven, to those that trust Christ and put Him first and claim His promises. Let every home, then, make God first in money matters and expect God's blessing in money matters.

### Win Children to Christ

Blessed is the father who assumes the responsibility for the salvation of his children. Such fathers have come to me many times with great rejoicing to tell me when the last child has been converted, "Brother Rice, the last one is saved! We are all in the family of God and the circle will not be broken!" The home cannot be happy where a prodigal boy or a wayward girl breaks mother's and father's hearts. The home cannot be happy where the children grow up and forget mother's God and father's. The only sure hope for happiness through the years is that each child as he comes to the years of accountability, be won to Christ, to love Him, to trust Him, to follow Him in baptism, to get in the church with God's people, to obey the Lord and grow in grace. If you want the happiness in your home, win your children to Christ.

Just a few months ago, God gave us our baby, Sarah Joy. The other five children had all been converted. We had rejoiced more than once that now all of our little ones had found peace in Christ and we would be a united family in Heaven. And now, with the joy that comes with our five months old baby, there comes also a heavy responsibility that we cannot shake off. I have just been thinking, oh, what if we should all get to Heaven but this little one, and she be left outside! I have gotten accustomed now, with some difficulty, to speaking of "my six little girls" where I used to speak of "my five girls." Wouldn't it be a sad and terrible tragedy, if when we get to Heaven, Mrs. Rice and I would have to speak again of "our five little girls" and never mention the other, because we failed to win her to Christ? I thank God that He helped us with the other five, when they each one when they were five or six years old were taught to trust in Christ, and did. With prayer, with tears, with deep anxiety, the other children were won

to Christ. I will never forget how happy we were when the first one, Grace, found the Saviour. What a load lifted! Then with Mary Lloys, the second girl, in 1930 while her mother was reading to her the story of the crucifixion from Matthew, suddenly burst into tears and said, "Mother! Mother, I want to be saved!" And when little Joanna, the last one, found Christ, not long ago, we were so happy. Now, what if the last one should be left outside! What if she should grow up without any faith in her father's God without loving Christ or trusting Him? What if she should wander away in sin and break our hearts? Home could not be happy as it ought to be with one prodigal. So, father and mother, I beg you, win your children to Christ.

Not long ago I was reading an old Bible given me by my father. I remember that he had given me to God to be a preacher when I was a baby. I never knew about it until long afterward, after my mother was dead. I learned that she had called me, repeatedly, in letters to her loved ones, "My preacher boy." She had wanted me to preach the gospel and begged God to make me a preacher. Then when I read in my father's Bible, I found underlined the words of Zacharias on the birth of his dear son, "His name is John," and I thought, and my eyes filled with tears, that God had put it in the heart of my father that I might in some sense be a John the Baptist, a preacher in the spirit and power of Elijah, filled with the Holy Ghost, if not from my mother's womb, then at least throughout my ministry! And I wept and prayed that my father's prayers might be fulfilled and that in truth I might live up to my name! Give your children to Christ.

Will I ever forget the day that my mother went home to Heaven? I was only five, hardly six years old. We were called in from our play. In the room, gathered around my mother's bed, were my father and a number of kinspeople. All were weeping except my mother. She said to my cousin, "Georgia, won't you play and sing for me?" Cousin Georgia answered, "What shall I sing, Aunt Sadie?" My mother called for that old song which had blessed her heart so many times,

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word."

So Cousin Georgia played it, and tried to sing it, though she could not sing much for tears. Then my mother called us one by one and had us promise to meet her in Heaven. When we had promised, she looked up and said, "I can see Jesus and my baby now!" Then she smiled around at us and closed her eyes and went to sleep. Oh, the joy in our home, because of the mother we had to win us to Christ! I was not saved then, but a little later I was converted, and the joy and peace of certainty of my heart on the matter of Christ and the Bible, is largely guaranteed by the testimony of my sweet mother who is in Heaven!

### "Christ Is the Head of This House"

In southwest Texas some years ago I went into a home hoping to win someone to Christ. There I found a new born baby, three days old. The mother's heart was touched — it was her firstborn. I asked her if she wanted me to pray for it, and she gladly assented. I stooped over to put my hands upon the little red-faced fellow and to ask God to bless him, and then I thought, but what about the mother? So I asked her if I might pray for her, too. I said to her, "You will need the blessing of God to raise the little one. You will need power to lead him right. You need Christ. Are you not a Christian?" She answered that she was not, and she with some tears asked me to pray for her, too.

I turned to the father who sat nearby, in pride. "Are you a Christian?" I asked. He answered, "No." I looked above the door, and there was a motto, "Christ is the head of this house, the unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation." Then I asked him, "What is the meaning of this? That motto is not true. That is a lie on the walls of your home. You do not love Christ, you have not trusted Him. He is not the head of

this home. Is that not so?"

The father dropped his head. He said, "Well, I know you are right. I guess I will have to take it down. No, Brother Rice, Christ is not the head of this house. I will take it down."

"I know something better than that," I said, "Why not just make it true today? Why not let Christ come in and be the head of this house? Let me pray for you while I pray for your baby, pray that Christ will save you and make you a Christian?"

The Holy Spirit had brought conviction to his heart. He gave his consent, and with a deep concern all of us bowed our heads to pray. I placed my hands on the head of the little baby and prayed that God would help mother and father to raise it for Him, help them win the baby to Christ when he should reach the years of accountability. I prayed that their example would always lead him and bless him. I prayed then that the mother upon the bed with the baby on her arm should be saved, that she would fully trust Christ. I prayed that the father would give his whole heart to Christ, claim Him as Lord and Saviour. And they did trust Him, too, and when the prayer was over, they took my hand and then there dedicated their home to Christ. Christ came in to be the head of the house! I know it was a happy home.

Do you want a happy home like theirs? Then let Jesus Christ come in today to be the head of your house.

I thank God for a happy home. I thank Him for a wife who loves me and for children who are sweet and good. I thank God that all but the baby have trusted Christ as Saviour. I can truly say,

"Mid pleasures and palaces  
though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's  
no place like home;  
A charm from the skies seems  
to hallow us there,  
Which, seek through the  
world, is ne'er met else-  
where."

"An exile from home splendor  
dazzles in vain;  
Oh, give me my lowly  
thatched cottage again;  
The birds singing gaily, that  
came at my call,  
Give me them, and that  
peace of mind dearer than  
all."

Chorus:  
"Home, home, sweet, sweet  
home.  
There's no place like home,  
Oh, there no place like home."

And many another like John Howard Payne, the writer, who never had a home of his own, could write these words, longing for the paradise and peace hereafter which here they have been denied. If you have a home, guard it safely. Let Christ be there and have His way. But make sure of a home in heaven.

One day we will gather in the Heavenly home. Will the circle be unbroken? Are you ready to meet your mother, and your father, and all the loved ones gone on before? If not, then I beg you, get ready. Homes down here are frail things at best. We are troubled with all the sins and failures and mistakes that the flesh is heir to. The best home has been marred by sin. Even where every member of the family is a Christian sin comes to bring misunderstandings and trouble. When death breaks the ties of home, we say good bye to mother or father at the grave. Distance oftentimes separates the chiefest loved ones. Children grow away from parents and leave. One grey-headed companion is left to mourn alone when the other is carried to the silent city of the dead. An earthly home at best is but a picture of a Heavenly home when God Himself shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. One day, Eden will be restored! One day we can meet our loved ones in the paradise of God! Don't you want to meet Him in peace? Don't you

want to be a part of the happy home there which God prepares for them that love Him?

"Oh, think of the home over there  
By the side of the river of life  
Of the saints all immortal and fair  
In their home in the palace of light."

Today is a fleeting day. In the Father's house of many mansions we can have a home that will never be broken by death or sorrow. Whatever your lot here with its disappointments and failures, let's make sure that you have part in the home over there.

Jesus Christ is the way. Put your trust in Him today and have the peace and forgiveness and a bit of Heaven in your heart! Then when He comes for His own we will enter into the eternal rest and joy of Home, Sweet Home, with God!

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